

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00
CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00
AID-05 SS-15 STR-06 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01
SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-11 /134 W
-----078771 210338Z /64

R 200917Z JAN 78

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8673

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, HK, NI, SF

SUBJECT: NIGERIAN THREAT TO BLACKLIST HONG KONG FIRMS TRADING
WITH SOUTH AFRICA

1. THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, A NON-
GOVERNMENT BODY, HAS CANCELLED A PROPOSED TRADE PROMOTION
MISSION TO SOUTH AFRICA, PARTLY DUE TO THREATS OF A NIGERIAN
BOYCOTT OF PARTICIPATING HONG KONG FIRMS. THE THREAT WAS
MADE IN MID-DECEMBER BY THE ACTING NIGERIAN COMMISSIONER
IN HONG KONG WHO, ACCORDING TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
DIRECTOR, APPEARED TO BE ACTING ON INSTRUCTION OR AT LEAST
IN LINE WITH NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT POLICY. WE UNDERSTAND
NIGERIA IS PLANNING TO CALL FOR ECONOMIC SACCTIONS AGAINST
SOUTH AFRICA AT THE UN LATER THIS MONTH.

2. WHILE THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE STATES THERE WAS MINIMAL
BUSINESS INTEREST IN THE TRIP, THE TREAT WAS A
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FACTOR IN THE CANCELLATION DECISION. NIGERIA
IS HONG KONG'S MOST IMPORTANT EXPORT MARKET IN
AFRICA (US\$75.5 MILLION IN THE FIRST TEN MONTHS OF
1977) AND A RAPIDLY GROWING ONE, WHILE HONG KONG
EXPORTS TO SOUTH AFRICA HAVE DROPPED 43 PER CENT
IN THE SAME PERIOD TO US\$27.3 MILLION.

3. CHANMBER OF COMMERCE DIRECTOR TOLD CONGENOFF
THERE IS CONCERN AMONG SOME OF THE LARGE HONG KONG
TRADING CONGLOMERATES SUCH AS JARDINE-MATHESON
THAT UN-MANDATED ECONOMIC SACNTIONS OR CONCERTED
ACTION BY MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN
STATES WILL MAKE THEIR SOUTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS ALL
THE MORE DIFFICULT.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION WHICH DEPARTMENT
AND OTHER ADDRESSEES MAY BE ABLE TO
PROVIDE AS TO WHETHER NIGERIA HAS ADOPTED A BOYCOTT
POLICY AND IF SO WHAT HAVE BEEN ITS EFFECTS.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: THREATS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978HONGK01048
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780032-0038
Format: TEL
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780141/aaaabiln.tel
Line Count: 75
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5b24c7e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3742441
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NIGERIAN THREAT TO BLACKLIST HONG KONG FIRMS TRADING WITH SOUTH AFRICA
TAGS: ETRD, HK, NI, SF
To: STATE LAGOS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5b24c7e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014